

Filed for intro on 02/09/2000

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 590

By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Ervin Smith of Smith County.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the death of Mr. Ervin Smith; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked diligently to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Smith County, Mr. Smith was a highly respected member of the Carthage community; and

WHEREAS, born in Kempville on July 18, 1908, Ervin Smith was the youngest of Jonathan David and Elvie Hackett Smith's three sons; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Mr. Smith answered Uncle Sam's patriotic call to duty, serving admirably in the U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an extraordinary educator who gave unreservedly of himself to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith received his Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee Teachers College (now Middle Tennessee State University) and earned his Master's Degree in Education from Peabody College in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith began his exemplary teaching career in the 1930s, selflessly imparting the precious gift of knowledge to the students of Riddleton, Union Heights and Carthage Elementary Schools; and

WHEREAS, a 1929 graduate of Smith County High School, Mr. Smith returned to his alma mater to teach science and coach the girls' basketball team; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith served with acumen and alacrity as the principal of Smith County High School from 1951 – 72, in which position he earned the respect of his teachers and students alike for the superior quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an extremely patient and giving person who motivated his faculty and students to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts. He was a never-ending source of inspiration to those who knew and cherished him and was tremendously admired by students and faculty alike; and

WHEREAS, combining his lifelong interest in local and regional history with his talent for accumulating and sharing knowledge, Ervin Smith rendered laudable service as the Historian for Smith County; and

WHEREAS, an active and stalwart participant in civic affairs, Mr. Smith served as the county's first Director of Civil Defense; he held this important post until his retirement in 1971; and

WHEREAS, a civic-minded individual, Ervin Smith continuously gave back to the community of Carthage by forming the first Boy Scout Troop in Smith County and serving as a charter member and president of the Carthage Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was truly a "pillar of society," donating his incredible talents as a longtime member of the Masonic Lodge, the Smith County Historical and Genealogical Society and the Smith County V.F.W.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an active and devout member of the Carthage United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith was the proud parent of Sarah Marie Smith of Carthage and Sam Smith of Mt. Juliet; he was the caring grandfather of Stuart Smith of Fort Belvoir, Virginia and Sandra Smith of Nashville, and he is also survived by his daughter-in-law, Kathy Keyes, in addition to four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ervin Smith now rests in peace beside his wife of 64 years, Mary Etta West Smith, who preceded him in death in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ervin Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is rare when a person of Mr. Smith's stature walks among us; his brilliance shone down upon us as he worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for the good people of Smith County; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Mr. Ervin Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy and offer our sincere condolences to the family of Ervin Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.